

DDI-2687-74

12 September 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : A CIA-sponsored Research Facility in the
Washington Area

1. As you requested, after Harry Eisenbeiss returned from vacation I reviewed with him your idea about an open research facility. Harry is generally opposed to the idea, and I think you may want to reflect on his thoughts. I disagree with his general opposition, but I can appreciate his worry about increasing the CRS workload, competing in general with the CRS program, and competing with the Library of Congress. While these probably are realistic cost and bureaucratic concerns, I am inclined to think the general value (including public relations) of such a facility would offset cost. It could be an expensive experiment, however.

2. Harry's concerns are these:

a. We could not possibly offer as complete a research facility as the Library of Congress. Our facility might get things out on the shelves faster than the LOC, but serious scholars would look upon our effort as mainly a PR ploy. We should do what we can to make the LOC stronger.

b. If we allowed copies to be made of our reference aids or FBIS materials (at 10¢/page cash) we would be competing with DocEx and NTIS.

c. Such a facility could be a significant drain on CRS. CRS would want to retain some of the more difficult to obtain materials for its own purposes, yet to leave these out of a research facility would dilute its usefulness. To duplicate such documents, or open biographic data, for example, would be very costly. Just getting the

materials to the research facility on a regular basis would draw off some CRS manpower. Costs of duplicating materials to be kept in both places would have to be charged to someone (CRS ?).

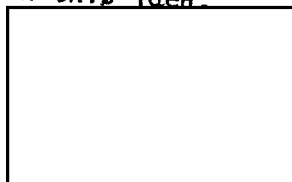
d. There are 2.5 linear miles of filing at CIA's library, and it is a relatively small facility. NSA had 7.5 linear miles of bio data alone which CIA never picked up when the biographic function was merged a few years ago. To offer a complete research capability even for the Soviet Union and China would take space and people. For a frame of reference, the Dolly Madison library employs four full-time equivalent positions just to reshelve materials, and that library is small.

e. Harry would not want to engage in an inter-library loan program at such a facility because it is hard to administer even when you have control over users.

3. It seems to me that a determination must be made about why we would open such a facility and what we could offer that would be unique. Perhaps space to study quietly and the absence of bureaucratic red tape would be enough. Cost certainly cannot be ignored, though I suspect this idea could be implemented at less cost to CIA and CRS than Harry imagines.

4. I have raised in OPR, the prospect of such a facility and most analysts think it has considerable merit. They would like to see it somewhat more inclusive than the USSR and the PRC, just because we buy documents that are hard for others to get and because we have more complete collections of FBISs, etc., than others. Most analysts thought biographic data should be included, although Harry told me that finished bio profiles are classified because they make judgments about foreign nationals and such judgmental material should not appear in an official US Government library.

5. I have asked a half dozen scholars what they thought of the idea, and they responded quite positively. I do not know precisely what kind of materials they hoped would be deposited in such a facility. They may expect to see more of our finished analyses than we could make available. I will make a more systematic survey of scholars if you wish to proceed further with this idea.



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File: CAR

MEMORANDUM FOR: Coordinator for Academic Relations

I want to keep moving on this. Please try a more systematic survey of scholars--try to get some ideas from them of how they might use such a facility, what they would want in it, and what advantages they might find over what is currently available to them. BUT, make clear this is exploratory and make no promises.

With regard to Harry's concerns, if Colby approved of the concept, it would have to be funded and staffed separately from CRS (but under its control.) Incidentally, does State or other departments have anything like what we are considering? If so, how does it work?

Ed Proctor

(DATE)

14 SEP 1974

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